



File Code: 2210/2230-3

Date:

Michael T. Nelson
Manager
Rancho Escondido, LLC.
380 East Main
2nd Floor, Building B
Midway, UT 84049

Dear Mr. Nelson:

This letter references the annual meeting held with you, Rawl Crosby, Morgan Beal (ranch manager), Aaron Zobell and other Forest Service employees on March 26, 2009 in Manila concerning your grazing of the Lonesome Park Allotment. This letter will serve as your 2009 operating instructions and will become a part of your term grazing permit as provided for in Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Please note situations may develop during the grazing season which you feel may require changes to these instructions. If you believe this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions contact Aaron Zobell and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Your 2009 operating instructions are as follows:

Lonesome Park Allotment

Numbers

Unit

Date

300

Dowd Mountain

June 20 – July 27

Eagle Basin

July 28 – Sept. 15

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registration provided by Rancho Escondido to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment through the “lock box” process must be received before livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands.

As we discussed, Rancho Escondido plans to begin to truck cattle to the Dowd unit beginning June 15, one truckload each day. You estimate that it will take you eight loads or until June 24 to finish. On July 28th you plan to trail your cattle along Highway 44 into the Eagle Creek unit where they will graze until utilization benchmarks have been met or until September 15th whichever comes first. The Red Canyon holding pasture is available to you to hold your cattle for several days just prior to the end of your season to facilitate trucking them off of the allotment. When you are finished you should rehabilitate the site and seed the area if needed.

Utilization benchmarks for the Lonesome Park Allotment are presented below in table 1.0. Utilization will generally be monitored at key areas of the allotment. Key areas are those areas of the allotment most preferred by livestock and are typically grazed first and receive the most concentrated use. Cattle will be removed from the Dowd Mountain unit before utilization benchmarks are exceeded at key areas or by the off date for this unit, whichever comes first.



Cattle will be removed from National Forest lands when utilization benchmarks have been met at key areas in the Eagle Basin unit or by the off date for the allotment, whichever occurs first. It is your responsibility to ensure utilization benchmarks shown in table 1.0 are not exceeded. Please contact Aaron Zobell to discuss options if you believe utilization benchmarks will be exceeded at key areas on the Dowd Mountain unit before the proposed off date for this unit. The above proposed grazing schedule and utilization benchmarks listed below are per the 2009 Lonesome Park Allotment Management Plan. Every effort must be taken to completely remove cattle off of National Forest lands by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires 7 days of riding to gather your cattle, then you should start riding 7 days prior to your scheduled off date.

Table 1.0 Utilization and Residual Stubble Height Benchmarks for the Lonesome Park Allotment

Utilization Benchmark	Dowd Mountain	Eagle Basin
Utilization-by key species	<50%	<50%
Residual Stubble Height	>4 inches	>4 inches

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, in open meadows, or adjacent to HWY 44. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important that cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and that an even distribution of your cattle be maintained while in a unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next unit or to come home

Keeping cattle off of Highway 44 was one of the primary topics of our meeting. We agreed to the following to improve highway safety while Rancho Escondido cattle cows are in the allotment.

1. To have a rider present at all times cattle are on the allotment. This is also a requirement of your term grazing permit. I understand Bob Dickinson will be your rider for the 2009 grazing season. At your earliest convenience, please provide Aaron a contact to him.
2. To have four signs with flashers and flagging that warn motorists of cattle: Four highway warning signs will be put up just prior to your move into the Eagle Basin unit. Each sign will have a flasher and flagging that you have coordinated with UDOT. One sign will be put up on HWY 44 just as you enter the allotment traveling from Vernal to Manila. A second sign will be put up just east of Cub Creek as you travel from Manila to Vernal. The two other signs are already in place and will simply need flagging and flashers attached.
3. To continue to look into the possibility of using fluorescent ear tags: You will need to continue to look into the feasibility of using fluorescent ear tags.
4. To reduce time spent in the Eagle Basin unit: Forage permitting, cattle will be kept in the Dowd Mountain unit at least after the 24th of July weekend forage permitting. In

addition, unless prior approval is received cattle will be taken off of Forest Service lands by the 15th of September regardless of the amount of levels of utilization within the Eagle Basin unit.

5. Construction of approximately ¼ mile of fence from Leona Creek to Highway 44 Boundary Fence (Infra #1105B). Construction of this fence in conjunction with a cattle guard at this location has the potential to remove livestock from approximately 4.5 miles of Highway 44. Aaron is currently looking into the feasibility of this project.

We also discussed, the importance of having all of Rancho Escondido's cattle removed from the allotment by September 15th. Last year Rancho Escondido received a letter of non-compliance for not having their livestock off of National Forest lands by the off date. While, Rancho Escondido did promptly remove their livestock from National Forest lands after receiving this letter, please be aware that the Forest Service will not tolerate repeated incidents of non-compliance. Especially when the non-compliance is for the same reason. You will need to ensure you make every feasible effort to have Rancho Escondido livestock off of National Forest lands by the 15th of September. A suspension and/or cancellation of Rancho Escondido's permit may occur if this does not occur

Maintenance of all your improvements must be done 1 week before cattle enter the allotment and maintenance needs to be completed to the standards listed in your permit. Completing your maintenance responsibilities 1 week before your on date will allow Aaron time to inspect your improvements and address any concerns before your cattle enter the allotment. This includes the Dowd Hole trough which should be kept empty until it is time to graze the west end of the Dowd Mountain unit. Additionally, the trough and the area immediately adjacent to the trough need to be rehabbed to the standards listed in your permit before livestock enter the allotment. Treated posts and a trough are available at the Forest Service for your use. Please contact Aaron and he will provide you with these materials. Any ATV use in the administration of your allotment is limited to existing roads.

The camp locations and facilities you used in 2008 may again be used this year (near the road junction on Dowd Mountain and near the Holding Pasture adjacent to Highway 44. Any supplemental feed used must be certified weed free. This letter will serve as your authorization to stay in your designated camp longer than the 16-day forest limit. Please note that you are required to keep your camp clean and safe.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let Aaron know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to Aaron by December 31st.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. We are especially concerned about Dyer's Woad and any other "new" weeds.

We look forward to working with you in the management of the Lonesome Park Allotment. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Aaron Zobell at 435-781-5279.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR
Acting District Ranger

cc: Morgan Beal, Box 185, Altamont, UT. 84001

2009 GRAZING USE RECORD
FLAMING GORGE RANGER DISTRICT

This form should be completed in detail, signed, and returned immediately following the grazing season to this office. Use back of sheet if necessary.

PERMITTEE _____

ALLOTMENT _____ YEAR _____

ACTUAL USE

UNIT IN ORDER GRAZED	TOTAL LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	DATE ENTERED	DATE LEFT	DATE <u>ALL</u> LIVESTOCK REMOVED FROM UNIT	NOTES

NOXIOUS WEEDS

SPECIES	LOCATION	OTHER

OTHER

Improvements maintained and/or visited

Improvements in need of repair

NOTES

SIGNATURE

DATE